



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

Senate Bill 637

*Health and Health Insurance - Behavioral Health Services – Expansion
(Behavioral Health System Modernization Act)*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance Committee

Date: February 23, 2022

From: D’Paul Nibber

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 637. This bill would, among other provisions, would require Maryland Medical Assistance to reimburse behavioral health crisis response services including crisis call centers, mobile crisis services, and stabilization services.

Behavioral health interventions have received renewed focus as a result of high profile incidents involving individuals experiencing crises related to mental health and substance use disorders. Counties have acted swiftly to ensure our shared constituents receive the supports they need: standing up hotlines, building crisis stability centers, and establishing mobile crisis intervention teams. This bill would help sustain these efforts by making them reimbursable through Maryland Medical Assistance.

As the State and its counties seek to address the worsening opioid epidemic and shift focus toward addressing constituents’ mental health needs, HB 637 would bolster public health initiatives seen as best practices. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 637 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.